

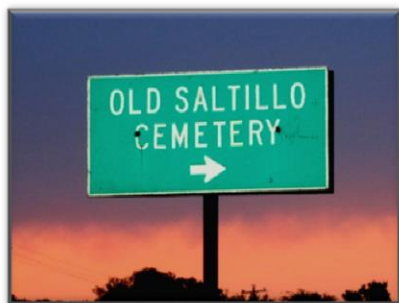
Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

Third Edition – June 30, 2011

Words From Our President

Plans have been finalized for the 2011 Memorial Day/Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Annual Business Meeting, to be held Sunday, July 17, 2011, in the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church. Traditions of the program will be observed this year.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with congregational singing led by Mike Briley, piano accompaniment by John Points. Darwin McGill will deliver opening remarks, followed by a report of the last year's activities of the Board of Directors of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, a financial report of the OSCA, election of three board members for the 2011-2014 term, and an overview of plans for the coming 12 months.



Jewel McAfee will present a memorial program, eulogizing the loved ones that have been buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery since last Memorial Day; she will be assisted by Jo Ann Agee. Steve Conley will present a musical tribute during the memorial program.

Byron and Sue Bass of Mount Vernon will close the annual meeting by entertaining the audience with a medley of songs. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon in the Woodrow Kirby Memorial Center. Bring your favorite foods so that those in attendance can share. Food will be arranged in a buffet style with sections for meat, salads, vegetables, and those scrumptious desserts. All eating utensils, plates, cups, napkins, and iced tea will be provided.



There is limited seating in the WKMC; however, many of you will prefer to keep with tradition and eat outside under the beautiful oak trees in back of the church.

The Old Saltillo Memorial Day provides us an opportunity to share our memories of loved ones and the community in which we have roots. Please plan to attend this year's meeting and visit with friends and family before and after the structured program.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President

Spotlight: Johnny McAfee

At the 2010 annual meeting of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, members elected Johnny McAfee to serve on the Association's Board of Directors, and fellow board members welcome him.



Johnny was born July, 12 1942 in Mount Vernon, TX to Allison and Obera Davis McAfee, both native to the area. Raised in the Saltillo Community, he attended Saltillo Elementary and Saltillo High School, and later attended East Texas State University at Commerce, TX.

Johnny and his wife of 46 years, Patsy (Collins), lived in and around the Sulphur Springs and Saltillo communities while raising their two children, John Mark and Kelli. John Mark and wife Lorri reside in Sulphur Springs, with their daughters Abbi and Savanna. Kelli and husband Jason Tarver live in Frisco, TX, with their twin girls, Emmi and Aubri. Johnny, who retired from TXU with 26 years of service, and Patsy, who retired from Hopkins Co. Memorial Hospital with 42 years of service, now reside in Saltillo, on property they inherited from Johnny's uncle, Pat McAfee. Johnny, a cancer survivor since 2002, enjoys gardening and working in his yard, but he and Patsy most enjoy spending time with their granddaughters.

Johnny's family members buried in the Old Saltillo Cemetery include, great grandparents, Lawson and Margaret Gipson, grandparents, L.R. and Nettie

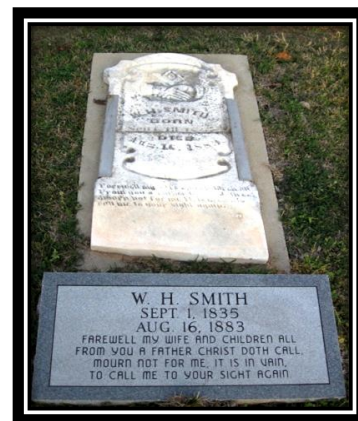
McAfee, uncle and aunt, Pat and Marie McAfee, and uncle, R.B. McAfee (a long serving board member of the OSCA.) *Johnny's parents are buried at the Weaver Cemetery.* When asked about his favorite memory of past Old Saltillo Memorial Days, Johnny fondly recalled the Briley Quartet and the "old time singers" returning to the church after lunch under the big oak trees, for an old fashioned gospel sing-song.

Jo Ann Agee, Contributing Columnist

Preserving History

As mentioned in prior newsletters, the OSCA places particular importance on preserving the Cemetery's beautiful old monuments and the valuable information they possess. Therefore, in recent years, the OSCA has purchased and installed new monuments at grave sites where the aged monuments have become disfigured, broken and/or the inscriptions have been eroded by time and elements. **All historic stones remain in their original position** and the Association makes every effort to keep them in good repair. However, when the integrity of the stone becomes so compromised that it becomes broken or the inscriptions wear to the point that they cannot be easily deciphered, new stones are placed at the burial site, *in addition to the historic stones*, reflecting the original inscriptions, easily discernable for those who visit the Cemetery.

The OSCA's efforts do not supersede the responsibilities of descendants to keep monuments (considered personal property) in good repair, but when family groups are no



longer active in the OSCA or the community, we feel it is our duty, financial resources permitting, to preserve this aspect of Old Saltillo's history. *This practice has been temporarily suspended, pending the improved financial health of the OSCA.*

Trapper Pace, Contributing Columnist

A Precious Commodity

It comes as no surprise to anyone who has walked or otherwise surveyed its grounds that the Old Saltillo Cemetery is land-locked, bordered to the north by a private drive, to the east by heavily wooded private property, to the south by low-lying private property and to the west by County Road 3357. Although modest Perpetual Care funds have been ear-marked for future land purchase, as allowed by the Association's Bylaws, there have been no opportunities for land purchase in recent years. Furthermore, the work required to improve available/adjoining land to a quality suitable for burial, given the Association's current financial position, would be cost prohibitive.

Therefore, the OSCA has long been focused and mindful of the most practical and efficient use of burial plots within the cemetery. The Operating Manual and Rules and Regulations have been crafted to permit multiple interments within a single-width plot. This practice, common in all military cemeteries and many public and private cemeteries allows interments to be double stacked, provided they are in accordance with state mandated burial depths. The Old Saltillo Cemetery also permits multiple cremains interments within a single burial plot. While monument installation guidelines still



apply, both of these options are cost effective solutions for families and make efficient use of limited space within the Old Saltillo Cemetery.

Still, space comes at a premium. Mindful that the bargain prices of rural cemeteries raise interest among "out of towners", the Old Saltillo Cemetery Board of Directors embarked on a benchmarking exercise in late 2010, to survey the cost of burial spaces in cemeteries aesthetically and geographically akin to the Old Saltillo Cemetery. We trust our readers and Association members would agree that the Old Saltillo Cemetery's features (beautiful setting, manicured grounds, tranquility and ease of access) equal or surpass the private cemeteries of neighboring cities such as Sulphur Springs, Winnsboro, Mt. Vernon and Mt. Pleasant, and even those in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. Thus burial plot price quotes for nearby rural area and Metroplex cemeteries were collected and reviewed, mindful that these rates have a direct impact upon plot purchases and burials in rural, in

cemeteries. Findings demonstrated that plots in the Old Saltillo Cemetery are currently priced below those of comparable cemeteries. After thoughtful consideration, the cost of reserving a burial space in the Old Saltillo Cemetery will be set at \$750 per space, effective August 1, 2011 at 12:01 a.m. Until that time, the price per burial space will remain at \$200 each. You will recall that spaces in the Old Saltillo Cemetery may not be reserved without payment of the current/in-effect reservation fee.

As a reminder, reservation fees are considered perpetual care funds, may not be spent for cemetery upkeep. Only the interest earned by these funds may be used for cemetery expenses.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo and Ryan Agee

Treasurer's Comments

Interest rates on cemetery funds remain low and continue to adversely affect the OSCA's interest earnings, our primary source of income. However, our readership clearly appreciates and identifies with our financial position. Thanks to your continued generosity, the OSCA continues to meet all financial commitments. Still, the OSCA Directors continue a moratorium on all non-essential expenditures.

Only interest revenue and donations may be used for the upkeep of the cemetery, thus the majority of the OSCA's assets, perpetual care funds, are not available for the offset of mowing, maintenance and other expenses. Therefore, your continued support is essential to our ability to keep the cemetery grounds in pristine condition.

All OSCA funds are invested in FDIC insured instruments, namely checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit, with sound local financial institutions. A full accounting of the OSCA's annual revenues and expenditures is provided (both orally and in written form) during the OSCA's Annual Meeting.

In memory and/or honor of your friends, family and loved ones, please consider a donation to the **Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, at P.O. Box 123, Saltillo, TX 75478**. Donations are tax deductible.

Ryan Agee, Treasurer

Your OSCA Board of Directors is as follows:

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President
Darwin McGill, Vice-President
Lou Briley Daniel, Secretary
Ryan Agee, Treasurer
Kennith Patrick, Caretaker
Chris Dennis Skelly, Historian
Louis Agee
Barbara Conley Norris
Johnny McAfee

Interments

As of the date of publication, the following individuals have been laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery in 2011:



Yolanda Alcaraz, interred January 22, 2011

Annette Coffman, interred February 11, 2011

Bill Pryor, interred June 20, 2011

To Clean or Not to Clean?

In recent years, removal of mold and lichen from aged monuments in the Old Saltillo Cemetery has been a recurring topic of conversation among the OSCA members. There are varying schools of thought on whether or not to attempt removal, and if so, with what materials. The topic is a tough one for rural public cemeteries, desiring well-preserved monuments, but mindful of all considerations, including potential harm to the monuments themselves.

Presently, since monuments within the cemetery grounds are considered personal property, and because the most common molds and lichens pose no immediate threat of harm or danger to the monuments' structural integrity, the OSCA Board of Directors does not condone use OSCA funds for cleaning of monuments.



Still, the Rules and Regulations do not prohibit monument cleaning by the membership. It is the responsibility of each family to decide if or how they will remove mold or lichen from their monuments. Prior to cleaning a monument, individuals should perform thorough research, seek permission from the lot owner or next of kin, and/or build consensus among known relatives.

OSCA Board of Directors